

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application, with claims 4-30 being withdrawn from further consideration at this time pursuant to the Response to Election Requirement dated July 27, 2004. Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Ejima (U.S.P. 6,229,953). Applicant hereinabove amends claim 1 to describe features of the invention more particularly.

As amended, claim 1 describes multiple operation switches in a vicinity of the release switch on a front face of the vertical body. This arrangement permits a user to operate the release switch and plurality of operation switches with one finger, particularly a thumb. This improves the operability of the camera.

In contrast, Ejima (Figs. 12-14) show a sound recording button 12, release button 10 and CLEAR, CANCEL, MENU, EXEC and arrow buttons but not arranged as described by claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable for at least these reasons. Because claim 1 was deemed generic, Applicant would submit that rejoinder of the withdrawn claims 4-30 would be appropriate.

Applicant further adds claims 31-34 to describe features of the invention more particularly.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the subject application be passed to issue at the earliest

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/702,817

possible time. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

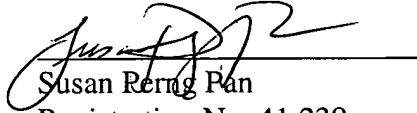
Respectfully submitted,

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